THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

Published by the WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

Vol. III.—No. 39 SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23rd, 1916 Price One Penny

DOCK GATES PEACE MEETING

On Wednesday, 13th inst., when we heard that the Central Powers had invited the Allies to enter into peace negotiations, the W.S.F. decided to attempt to secure an expression of the widespread desire for peace which undoubtedly exists by the holding of an open-air meeting at the East India Dock Gates on the following Sunday afternoon. Only a hastily-convened meeting could be hoped for in the few days that remained. Attempts were made, through Mr. George Lansbury, to induce the Poplar Trades Council to co-operate, but the notice was probably too short for anything to be done by that body. It was decided to put some posters on the walls announcing the meeting without waiting for names of speakers or organisations. Mr. Attlee, of the Poplar I.L.P., Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Walker, Miss Bennett, Mrs. Boyce, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst agreed to speak. The East London I.L.P.s and B.S.P.s were communicated with. Saturday's pitch black fog interfered with the advertisement of the meeting, as it made it impossible for the posters to be seen.

On Sunday the fog, though not very dense, was again a handicap. Nevertheless a fairly large crowd of people assembled at the Dock Gates, and the majority of the crowd were either distinctly sympathetic towards the object of the meeting or at least wanted to hear what was being said.

Four or five elderly men had come to make mischief, however, and their noisy shouts were backed up by some irresponsible boys in their teens. A Canadian soldier protested that the speakers should be given a hearing, and declared that it was only those who had never been in the trenches and who believed themselves absolutely safe from the danger of being sent there who were opposed to peace negotiations. Other members of the audience eagerly reinforced him, taking the part of the speakers so vigorously that the hubbub made it difficult for anyone to be heard. Miss Bennett took the chair. Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Walker both spoke. When Mr. Attlee was speaking, the chair which served for a platform was pushed over by the disturbing element. It was picked up, and Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, with the aid of some friends, sprang upon it, but Miss Bennett, who was standing by, slipped down in resisting the pressure of the crowd which was partly caused by the disturbing element partly by the curiosity of those who did not quite know what was happening. Miss Pankhurst and the others holding the chair stooped to help up Miss Bennett. The chair was again righted, and Miss Pankhurst began to speak. But at this moment a band of police who had stood away from the meeting making no attempt to keep order pushed their way into the crowd, forcing a passage for themselves by striking out with their fists and shouting that this was a disorderly meeting that must be dispersed. Without ceremony they pushed Miss Pankhurst and her immediate group of supporters, chair and all, round the corner, paying no attention as to whether anyone was hurt by their lack of ceremony. Sympathisers followed the speakers, disturbers remained wrangling at the dock gates.

East India Dock Road is one of the widest main roads leading out of London. At that point it is bordered by iron railings with a convenient broad stone base about eighteen inches high, a most convenient platform. Miss Pankhurst mounted it and proceeded to continue the meeting. In a moment the police came hurrying up and the sergeant said to her, "If you will get down from here you can go back to speak in the proper place." She instantly agreed, but as soon as she set foot on the pavement and turned towards the dock gates the police laughed and pushed her away in the opposite direction. She crossed to the other side of the road selling papers, then returned to the railings and addressed an orderly crowd till the police again returned and arrested her. Mrs. Drake clung to her, and was also arrested.

Meanwhile Mrs. Walker had carried the chair to the dock gates and was holding an orderly meeting when the police appeared and arrested her. Mr. Edgar Lansbury was standing amongst a crowd of 150 people near the dock gates when a policeman ordered him away. He said: "I must stay about here because I am waiting for my wife," but turned to move slowly around. The policeman pushed him, he turned sharply round to see who was pushing him, whereupon the policeman seized his collar and arrested him. Immediately afterwards Mrs. Minnie Lansbury came up and saw her husband being dragged off in custody. She ran alongside asking what had happened. A plain clothes constable struck her and kicked her ankle, and then arrested her.

The five persons who had been arrested were taken to the neighbouring police-station. After being charged they were put in the cells and kept there for some time.

At the Thames Police Court next day Mrs. Walker, who was charged with "insulting language and behaviour," asked for an adjournment. Her case will be heard at Thames Police Court on Wednesday morning, December 27th. The Magistrate assured Miss Pankhurst and Mrs. Drake that he recognised the sincerity of their convictions, and asked them to be bound over to go away whenever the police told them that they must not speak. They replied that they could not give such an undertaking, and were ordered to pay £2 each or seven days in default of distress.

Mr. and Mrs. Lansbury were discharged.

The police evidence was embroidered with picturesque fabrications which included statements that several people had been knocked over and that the crowd had threatened to throw Miss Pankhurst in the dock.

The Canadian soldier who supported peace negotiations at the Dock Gates has since sent us 2s. 6d., with a request to go on agitating.

1916.
By ISRAEL ZANGWILL.

The world bloodily-minded,
The Church dead or polluted,
The blind leading the blinded,
And the deaf dragging the muted.

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

CHRISTMAS WEEK PEACE CAMPAIGN

The W.S.F. is holding a special Peace Campaign in Christmas week. Miss Sylvia Pankhurst appeals to any who will help either in speaking or otherwise to meet at 400 Old Ford Road between 10.30 and 11.30 each day from Tuesday, December 26th to Sunday, 31st, onwards. Times and places of meetings already arranged are announced in our meetings column.

GAGGING THE PACIFISTS

Conscientious objectors released from prison or detention barracks have been officially informed that if they engage in public propaganda, speech-making, processions, or demonstrations they will be sent back to prison or recalled to the army.

We believe that they will prefer to return to prison or barrack cells rather than submit to interference with their right and their duty to agitate for Peace.

EXPLOITING THE WOMEN

On December 14th, the Fabian Research Department held a Conference on the Entry of Women into Male Occupations. It was unable to agree to the only logical solution of this question that there shall be equal pay and equal conditions for men and women. It was agreed with verbal unanimity that the employing class would benefit out of any conflict between the men and women workers, and that both the men and women would inevitably suffer, but some of the speakers still clung to the notion that the men could crush the women out of all sections of industry, except those which they themselves do not wish to enter. Disaster lies that way!

In "The Times" of December 19th, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky quoted the following figures of wages paid to women employed wholly or partially on Government work: Safety fuses, 11s. a week, now raised to 13s. by arbitration; Linen cloth, Government awards, 2¼d. per hour to certain day workers; Electric firm, day rates commencing at 2d. an hour, rising after a year's satisfactory service to 2¾d. an hour. N.B.—52 hours a week at 2d. an hour—8s. 8d.; 52 hours' week at 3d. an hour—13s. These wages are paid in spite of Dr. Leonard Hill's report, founded on April prices, that 2s. 1½d. a day (or 14s. 10½d. a week) was necessary to provide sufficient and adequate food for munition workers.

"The Times," Dec. 20th, contains a further discussion of women's wages, in which Miss Mary Macarthur states: In Scotland cases are being tried of shell and other munition makers only receiving 8s. 9d., 10s., and 11s. a week, with 13s. 3d. as their highest wage. Last week a girl of 19, with five brothers at the front, who was only earning 9s. 9d. for a 52½ hours week at stator winding, was refused a leaving certificate. In Scotland there are any number of adult women earning a wage of 10s. to 15s. a week. In London women engaged on ammunition boxes, cordite trays, and Post Office boxes are only being paid 3d. to 3¾d. an hour, with a bonus of 1s. a week.

ADULT SUFFRAGE

"The Times" says:—"The Speaker's Electoral Reform Conference is for the moment in suspense. Three members, Sir Robert Finlay, Colonel Craig, and Mr. Walsh, have joined the Government, and three others have resigned. As the Conference received its mandate from the old Government, it will probably not resume its sittings until it has obtained a new one from their successors."

* * * *

We hope that, having taken over the Irish railways for the period of the War, the Government will treat the employees more generously than the private companies have done. If, as we hope, conditions improve, there will be an outcry against going back to private control at the end of the War.

THE WORKERS' FOOD PRICES COMMITTEE

At the Conference of the Workers' Food Prices Committee, held at Chandos Hall last Sunday, the following resolution was passed, with one dissentient:—

"This Conference of delegates of the Workers' Food Prices Committee vigorously protests against the appointment of Lord Devonport as Food Controller under the new Administration. It regards the appointment to this position of an avowed enemy of the working class as a gratuitous insult to the common people, whose hardships owing to the increasing prices during the war are largely due to the profiteering greed and rapacity of the class of which Lord Devonport is a typical representative."

The Conference decided to arrange for a series of local demonstrations in the four quarters of London in support of the demand for an immediate reduction in food prices, and the Trades Councils in the several localities will be asked to co-operate in making the necessary arrangements for the demonstrations.

CRUEL COERCION

Miss Hattrell, a Portsmouth elementary school teacher, was fined £10 for having in her possession copies of the leaflet, "1,000 Conscientious Objectors." She was afterwards dismissed by the local Education Authority. The members of the Portsmouth Education Authority have disgraced the town; they should be strenuously opposed when, at last, the election day comes round!

* * * *

The Congress of the French Socialist Federation of the Seine Department, held on December 17th, clearly shows that the Peace party has made tremendous headway. By 10,026 votes to 403 a resolution was adopted calling on the Allied Governments to accept negotiations and state terms. A resolution demanding the resignation from the Government of the Socialist Minister (M. Thomas) was lost by a narrow majority, 4971 voting for it and 5474 against.

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Editor: SYLVIA PANKHURST.
Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation.
0 OLD FORD ROAD, LONDON, E.
Telephone EAST 1787.
Annual Subscription: Post free, 6s. 6d.

OUR ADVERTISEMENT RATES

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Per inch	0 5 0	Per half-column ...	1 10 0
Per column ...	2 15 0	Per page	5 0 0
Per half-page ...	£4 10s. 0d.		

Miscellaneous advertisements 1d. a word, minimum 1s. for twelve words.
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Vol. III. No. 39 Sat., December 23rd, 1916

Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

SWASHBUCKLING!

"Any man or set of men who wantonly or without sufficient cause prolonged a terrible conflict like this would have on his soul a crime that the oceans could not cleanse."

These are the words of the new Prime Minister. Let him take them to heart! Perhaps to avoid becoming unpopular with neutral nations, the Lloyd George administration refrained from answering the German peace negotiations offer, until it had been rejected by France with some vagueness and by Russia definitely and with emphasis.

The excuses for refusing to discuss the German peace terms which Mr. Lloyd George gave to Parliament on December 19th are both feeble and untruthful. He lies deliberately, and not even cleverly.

His first excuse is that it is a favourite device of the military despot to appear in the garb of the Angel of Peace when he wishes for time to assimilate his conquests, to organise his forces for fresh conquests, or when his subjects show symptoms of fatigue. Such an argument might appear plausible if the Germans had suggested that hostilities should cease during the proposed negotiations, but no such suggestion has been made. On the contrary, it is assumed that the murder of the world's youth shall continue whilst the wire-pulling statesmen of the belligerent nations are discussing the possibility of bringing the international strife to an end.

Mr. Lloyd George's second excuse is that we cannot consider an invitation to negotiate until we know that Germany is prepared to accede to our terms, which he described as:—

"Restitution, reparation, guarantee against repetition."

What do these terms mean? We should like Mr. Lloyd George and each member of his Cabinet and also Mr. Asquith and the members of the late Cabinet to be each made to write down a practical definition of them capable of being acted upon. We are quite convinced that if such an examination were set, and the present and ex-Cabinet Ministers honestly tried to prepare a genuine set of answers, no two of them would agree.

But the Asquith formula which Mr. Lloyd George has here reduced to pill-box form is merely window-dressing intended for the gulling of ignorant, good-hearted people in the Allied and neutral nations. Everyone knows that there can be no reparation, for a decisive victory can never enable the vanquished, either to resurrect the dead, or to make men whole once they have lost their limbs!

Mr. Lloyd George said that the Allies will not end the War till they secure "most complete and effective guarantees against the possibility of the Prussian military caste ever again disturbing the peace of Europe." Does he wish to set up the guillotine in the streets of Berlin and to behead by the score all who may be said to belong to this caste? Does he mean that Germany is to become a Republic? Or that she is to be for ever disarmed? If he means these things he ought to agree that the same purge should be applied in every capital in Europe. But he does not mean these things. He spoke of swashbuckling, but no one is more given to the practice than he, and last Tuesday's speech was amply embroidered with it.

The final excuse for refusing to negotiate is that the pledges of Germany are not to be trusted. He said:—

"The mere word that led Belgium to destruction will not satisfy Europe any more. We all believed it. We all trusted it. It gave way at the first pressure of temptation."

Is it not strange that a man should thus pile lie upon lie? All diplomatists and military experts openly agreed that when the expected European war came Germany would strike at France through Belgium. Germany laid her strategic lines for the purpose, and the French, British and Belgian military staffs laid their plans together accordingly. To the world's war-mongers this was a mere business proposition, just as to them it was a commonplace matter for Britain to break her pledge to protect the independence of Persia, and for Britain, France and Spain to break their pledges to preserve the independence of Morocco. With the memory of such recent happenings fresh in his mind, as it still must be, Mr. Lloyd George's conscience should hold him tongue-tied when he reproaches other nations with treaty-breaking.

But Mr. Lloyd George is one of those politicians who talk most glibly of frankness and good faith when they are trying to gloss over unpleasant truths, and in this case the truth is as unpleasant as can be. It is quite certain that the terms on which the Central Powers are prepared to make peace are known to the British Government, and that they are of such a nature that a referendum vote of the people of this country would probably accept them as a basis for opening peace negotiations, but they are not acceptable to the Russian Government and to certain capitalist interests in this country and in France, for the German proposals would rule out plans of aggression in the Balkans and Asia Minor.

Therefore Mr. Lloyd George has had instructions from the capitalist Jingoes to stir up the enthusiasm of the people for the continuing of the War.

The militarists are well pleased because the prolongation of the War increases their hope of securing the permanent establishment of Conscription in this country. The Volunteer Bill, which has slipped through the House of Commons and will soon have passed the Lords, provides the machinery for organising Conscription in peace-time and applying it to men of all ages and occupations. Our advice to all men is: to consider this measure carefully.

Mr. Lloyd George and Lord Curzon have definitely committed the Government to complete industrial conscription for men, and there is a hint in both speeches that it may be applied to women. Men are to be transferred compulsorily from the army to industry, from industry to the army, and from occupation to occupation as the Government sees fit. The voluntary enrolment system is to be used as in the case of military Conscription as a preliminary lever. Rates of pay and separation allowances, for the present, are to be the same as those for munition volunteers. There is to be a Director of National Service, with a military and a civil director under him.

As a sop to democracy, Mr. Lloyd George promises that the shipping and mining industries shall be controlled by the State as the munition industry has been, and as Mr. Lloyd George was responsible for the Munitions Acts, we may expect similar results, which include large profits for the owner and much discipline for the worker.

Mr. Lloyd George says:

"We feel that the Dominions ought to be formally consulted as to the progress and course of the War and as to the steps that ought to be taken to secure victory, and as to the best methods of garnering in those fruits."

Consultation with the people of this country he and his Government consider unnecessary; lies and bluff are all that are vouchsafed to the men and women here at home. In Australia and New Zealand the people have complete adult suffrage, the referendum is taken on important matters, and elections have not been stopped during the War. If those people of the antipodes are given a voice they may exercise the saving influence which is denied to us.

Adult Suffrage for men and women to enable the whole people to express its view at the next election, which may not be long delayed, was not mentioned in Mr. Lloyd George's programme.

For Ireland, he had mere cautious platitudes, and excused himself from definite promises on the ground of his illness.

As for the War, he admitted that it would be long and stern, and that many mistakes have been made. But he and his friends are determined it shall be fought to the bitter end. Greece and any other neutral that gets in the way must be sacrificed, the martyrdom of the people in invaded territories must continue, more lives must be lost, more grief and privations borne by the sorrowing peoples of Europe. We here in England are only upon the fringe of the deeper misery.

Mothers and wives whose hearts are burdened with sorrow and anxiety, arouse yourselves and demand an end to the slaughter. These men in power are spending the lives of your sons and husbands like copper coins. They are buying with the lives of those whom you love, not honour and national safety, as they have pretended, but opportunities for certain groups of capitalists to accumulate additional wealth.

In order to build up this wealth, the women of Europe, whose destiny it is to bring life into the world, are gradually being made the murderers of the men of our generation. The women of Germany and Austria are set to make the wherewithal to murder the men of Russia, France and Britain. The women of Britain and her Allies are set to make the implements to murder the men of the Central Powers.

Women, cease to bend your energies to that task; do not agree to be conscribed for it. Concentrate all your energies on the demand for Peace! The men in the trenches are facing death. Will not the men and women left at home endure any abuse and discomfort that may be forced upon them in agitation to put an end to the War?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

TO ONE WHO DISAGREES

To the Editor of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT.

Dear Madam,—Mrs. Herring's letter of November 25th demands a reply. I do not propose to try and answer it fully, but I should like to put a few points before her consideration. Is Mrs. Herring convinced that the prosecution of the war will destroy the power of Prussianism in Europe? Is she convinced that it is the only way of destroying it? I say Prussianism and not Prussia because I know it is the tyranny, ruthlessness, cruelty, and injustice shown by Prussia and embodied in the word Prussianism Mrs. Herring rightly fears and detests. If Mrs. Herring is not convinced that the war will destroy this terrible evil—and if she is not convinced that it is the only way of destroying it is she justified in wishing the continuation of the War for one day longer? I maintain that she is not justified. Mrs. Herring, and those who think like her, are gambling with a certain and present evil for a problematical and future good. In many cases this is justifiable, but in this case the stakes are too high. I want Mrs. Herring to concentrate all the powers of her thought and imagination on what is going on in Europe at present—the suffering and evil of every kind in the countries that are less affected by the War, the desolation and misery in those that are devastated by it, the agony and horror of the battlefields. I am inclined to think that Mrs. Herring, like many other humane persons, dare not think of these things. As a sort of self-defence she idealises the sufferings; she envisages it all as noted self-sacrifice. But let her think honestly of all the wretchedness, misery and pain of one week of the War, and then let her think once more whether the future gain for which she is playing is so certain that it is worth while to go on, and whether, after all there is not some other possible way of winning the goal.

My own belief is this: If the War had been staved off for one week it might never have happened. Side by side with increasing preparedness for War in Germany, as in other countries, there was an increasing belief in internationalism and peace. I believe that Germany is not solely to blame for the outbreak of War, and that however bad her conduct in the prosecution of it has been, if we had a little more faith in the possibility of good in this; a little more power of seeing things from her point of view; a little more power of self-condemnation, we could come to honourable terms with her now. Peace might be made. Prussianism might be conquered by the forces of good from within. Therefore I am not convinced this War is the only way to destroy Prussianism. And I am not convinced that it will destroy it at all. A Germany beaten by killing and starvation is likely to arise again a more embittered, more hostile, and therefore more military foe determined at all costs to recover her prestige and avenge her defeat. In the attempt to ruin Germany we may ruin ourselves. In the attempt to root out Prussianism in Germany we may foster it in ourselves. However, these things may not happen, the future may be bright, but it may be very, very dark, much darker than any of us dare imagine. Anyhow, it is problematical, and the present is certain, and I maintain that for such uncertain ends, and for ends which might be obtained in some other way, we have no right to wish for one day longer the continuation of this Hell on Earth.

Yours faithfully,
A. DOROTHEA SANGER.

58 Oakley Street, Chelsea.
December 7th.

A Service of Prayer

for the coming of Peace on Earth and goodwill amongst men will take place in Trafalgar Square on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, at 3 p.m.

It will be conducted by

The Rev. W. E. ORCHARD, D.D.

The W.S.F. has decided to join this demonstration; therefore the proposed meeting in Victoria Park has been postponed until Sunday, 31st, 3 p.m. All friends are cordially invited to meet at Trafalgar Square on the 24th.

* * * *

The women employed in the shipyards on the North-East Coast are applying for a wages advance of 5s. a week, to meet in some degree the tremendous rise in the cost of living.

* * * *

Mrs. Arncliffe Sennett will be deeply grateful to Suffragists who will offer to sell the new pamphlet, the Northern Men's "Manifesto" at public Suffrage and other meetings. Profits on sale to go to the Suffragists own societies. Address 6 Wellington Road, St. John's Wood, London.

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

December 14th.—Mr. Lynch asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the policy of the British Government towards the United States was of an irritating kind and likely to create misunderstandings. Lord Robert Cecil replied that blockade measures inevitably cause inconvenience and irritation to citizens of neutral nations.

Of course they do! Why not end the irritation and hardship by entering into peace negotiations?

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In reply to assertions by Mr. Devlin and Mr. Ginnell that the pig industry was declining in Ireland for want of feeding stuffs, Mr. Duke said: "The decrease in the number of pigs in Ireland is due, in the Department's opinion, not so much to the scarcity, but rather to the high price of feeding stuffs."

EXPLOITING BELFAST WOMEN.

Mr. Develin asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland whether his information showed that distress existed amongst the women workers in the Belfast linen trade, except where the women had military or naval separation allowances or were partially supported by men relatives; and if so whether for the period of the War the Government would take over the linen industry, which, whilst making large profits for the employers, fails to pay a living wage to the women workers who mainly support it?

Mr. Duke replied: "I believe the assumption in the first part of the question is true. No ground appears to exist at present for advising the Government to undertake on public account the liabilities of the linen trade."

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Mr. Nugent stated that quantities of women are employed in Dublin at a weekly wage of 7s. 6d. a week, and asked for the establishment of Wages Boards.

* * * *

Mr. Byrne alleged that Sergeant-Major Newstead, when under cross-examination at the court-martial of the Irish prisoners at Frongoch, admitted that the commandant stated that he would have discipline if he had nothing but dead bodies in the camp.

Sir G. Cave said he was making inquiries.

7 TO 1 AGAINST CONSCRIPTION.

Mr. Snowden asked whether the official promise to disclose the result of the voting on conscription by Australian soldiers in France was not kept because the voting was 7 to 1 against conscription. No information!

* * * *

Mr. Dillon and Mr. Tim Healy asked why the police questioned Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington's brother's maid-servant as to Mrs. Skeffington's address, and why she should be put under police surveillance. Mr. Duke replied that the police knew nothing of the matter.

* * * *

Mr. Houston said that the Italian Government exempts from fiscal dues and taxation profits on cargo vessels registered under the national flag during the first five years of their effective service if built in Italy and during the first three years if built abroad, provided the service begins prior to December 31st, 1918.

Being a shipper, Mr. Houston wants the same privileges for British shippers. And what about all classes and all interests helping to pay for the War?

* * * *

Sir G. Cave announced that in view of all the circumstances, Mr. Edward Fuller would be released before Christmas.

We are glad to welcome him back to work for peace!

* * * *

Commander Wedgewood drew attention to a peace meeting which is to take place in Hammersmith on January 24th. Sir G. Cave confessed ignorance of the fact; but promised that "if breach of the peace were anticipated the police would take the usual steps to maintain order."

We know what they are, after the meeting at the Dock Gates on Sunday, 17th.

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There were many questions about food prices. Mr. Outhwaite said that on some Scottish estates the red deer are fed with grain and potatoes.

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Mr. Devlin and Mr. Nugent stated that the Belfast Labour Exchange had requested the Secretary of the National Amalgamated Society of Operative House and Ship Painters and Decorators to supply red-lead workers for Clyde Bank at 2½d. below the standard rate of pay, and that when he refused unemployment benefit was refused to unemployed house and ship painters, including 148 members of the Society who had been dismissed from the Belfast shipyards.

BONAR LAW BEGINS TO SEE.

Mr. Bonar Law, the new Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced a motion for a further vote of credit of £400,000,000, and in doing so explained that the cost of the War has now risen to £5,710,000 a day! He said that such an expenditure could not go on indefinitely. All that could be hoped was that the Armies might be kept ***"at a strong figure long enough to beat our enemies," and that "we can go on long enough to make sure that it is not from financial causes that we could fail to secure a victory."***

These are very striking admissions. They should show us that the Government is beginning to realise that big talk about winning a decisive victory will have to stop sooner or later.

Mr. McKenna complimented Mr. Bonar Law on his speech, saying that he understood that there would be no change of financial policy; but Mr. Mason hoped that Mr. Bonar Law would not follow the "profligate and extravagant" methods of Mr. McKenna.

Mr. Wardle said that the majority of the Labour Party would support the Government in the Vote of Credit.

Mr. Hogge urged that the Government should not say anything about the Peace terms until they knew what was in them. He pleaded for the soldiers' dependants and the disabled soldiers, urging that allowances should be increased. He was not prepared to allow the Vote of Credit to go through unless a sufficient amount of it was earmarked to treat these people adequately.

Sir William Byles complained that the money spent by this country on the War would have provided a comfortable cottage and nearly two acres of land for every family in the British Isles, and that the generations yet unborn who would have to help to pay for this War would "condemn the whole of this costly enterprise as the foolhardiness of their forefathers."

Commander Bellairs demanded the blockade of Sweden. Mr. MacCallum Scott asked whether it was in order to advocate the blockade of a neutral country, and the Chairman said that Commander Bellairs was getting into dangerous waters.

Further discussion of the motion was postponed till Friday.

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The Special Register Bill was withdrawn.

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Mr. Swift MacNeil again asked that the Dukes of Cumberland and Albany should be removed from the peerage (some people are prone to waste their energy on things that do not matter). Mr. Bonar Law promised favourable consideration.

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The Christmas leave of soldiers from the front was discussed, and it was decided to adhere to the regulations observed last Christmas. There was a general feeling that soldiers should get preferential treatment, which probably means civilians may arrive at a station and—even though it be a matter of life and death—hear some such order as "This train for soldiers only!"

* * * *

December 15th.—The Re-election of Ministers Bill was rushed through all its stages. This is the second Bill of its kind passed during the War; it has enabled the new Cabinet Ministers to evade the re-election by a constituency which the constitution demands when an M.P. accepts office of profit under the Crown. Mr. Watt, in opposing the Bill, pointed out that Mr. Barnes, the new Pensions Minister, who represents a Glasgow division in the Labour interest, would meet with formidable opposition from his constituency, as the organisations that secured his election are strongly pacifist. Mr. Gordon Hewart, the Solicitor-General, is a Leicester representative, where pacifist feeling is also very strong.

The Home Secretary, Sir G. Cave, admitted that the Bill was brought in for fear of candidates put forward independently of the Liberals and Conservatives whose candidatures would give as much trouble and take as much time as a contest desired by a party.

The Government is aware that pacifist feeling is growing fast!

* * * *

On the Supplementary Vote of Credit, Major W. Redmond, just returned from the Front, drew attention to the "extraordinary good feeling which has been displayed between the various sections of Irishmen who are in France at the present time." He pleaded this fact as an excuse for demanding the same good feeling at home. But if he hoped that his words might bring Home Rule, or even a more forebearing treatment of Ireland without it, he must have suffered great disappointment. Colonel M'Calmont at once rose up to say that the main point to be considered was not the position of the Irish people, but recruiting for Irish regiments. Unless the men for the Irish regiments were forthcoming during the coming weeks the Irish regiments would be extinct as soon as the spring campaign, with its heavy mortality, started. Mr. Bonar Law said that he could not say anything about the Government of Ireland, and called for more sacrifices from the Irish people as the one thing that would influence the English.

THE SUGAR FAMINE.

Mr. Hazleton stated the fact that the inhabitants of the little town of Headfort, Ireland, are without any sugar supply simply because they used to get their sugar from a firm in Galway—the head of which died recently, since when the firm went out of business. Now, because the Sugar Commission ordains that you can only get your sugar from the wholesale firm that supplied you the previous year, the town is awaiting events, and without sugar!

Mr. Duke replied that he had only heard of the Headfort trouble the day before and had communicated with the Irish Office within half an hour. But Mr. Hazleton said the grievance was a month old, and that he had visited the Commission in regard to it twice within the previous ten days.

Mr. Duke, in his efforts to justify all Departments, made some ridiculous statements. He said that the Sugar Commission was in the unprecedented position of having to deal with "the sugar supply of practically every household" and "the number of complaints which I have had from the whole of Ireland on this subject, and they come to the Chief Secretary sooner or later, does not exceed a dozen."

THE POTATO FAMINE.

Mr. Lundon said that the Irish potato crop is less than one-third of what it was last year, and complained that Mr. Hugh Barrie, M.P., the largest exporter of potatoes in the United Kingdom, is the only Irish representative on the Committee which deals with the export of potatoes.

* * * *

Mr. Devlin said that the Irish railways ought to have been placed under Government control like the English, Welsh and Scotch. He said that the Irish railway servants were worse paid and worked longer hours than British railway servants. Now that a general strike was threatened, the Irish Great Southern Railway had offered a bonus of 2s. a week, whilst British railwaymen had had 10s. Mr. Duke said it was not in the public interest to discuss the matter.

* * * *

Mr. King expressed dissatisfaction with the higher army commands, and especially with Sir William Robertson, Chief of the General Staff, whom he supposed to have been responsible for the declaration that the first Military Service Bill would provide the men needed for victory, and who had taken to making ridiculous speeches, having said a few days ago: "With regard to the military situation, we ought to be more than satisfied."

Mr. King was very severely rebuked by Mr. Duke and others. Such criticism is only tolerated from Lord Northcliffe and his spokesmen.

* * * *

Mr. Dillon, Mr. Devlin, and others complained that the Irish National Board refuses to allow Irish school teachers who have been appointed magistrates by the Lord Chancellor to sit on the bench. They also urged the raising of pensions to Irish school teachers, which, on the average, amount to only £40 a year.

Mr. Duke replied that in the first matter he had no power, but promised to use his influence. In regard to the pension, he sympathised but would not create such a precedent.

BEWARE THE VOLUNTEER BILL!

The second reading of the Volunteer Bill was taken. The Bill gives power to the Army Council to enrol volunteers under a special agreement for a period not exceeding the duration of the War. These men will be subject to military law, and will be bound to undergo a definite course of training for a period not exceeding the duration of the War; until proficient they must do fourteen drills a month, afterwards ten drills. They will be bound to undertake "any military duties in Great Britain which may be provided for in the agreement." Any breach of this agreement will involve "military penalties" similar to those incurred by regular soldiers who are absent without leave under the Army Act.

One might have thought that the militarists would have been content with conscripts, without enrolling volunteers. But this is probably another stage in the enactment of complete conscription. Soon we may hear again the old demand from employer to employed, "enlist (in the volunteers) or go." Then after a time we shall be told that it is necessary for the national safety that all men shall be volunteers, and then that volunteers shall be interchangeable with members of the regular army! And that the compulsory drilling and enrolment introduced by this Volunteer Bill must be maintained in peace as well as in war.

Unfortunately, the Volunteer Bill, the thin end of another wedge, passed the Second Reading without a dissentient voice. The Conscriptionists are working hard to complete their system before Peace comes.

GERMAN PEACE TERMS.

December 18th.—Mr. W. Thorne asked the Secretary for Foreign Affairs whether he could make any statement about an alleged offer by the Central Powers of peace to Belgium on the following terms:—That the country is to be restored to them, their independence guaranteed, and financial assistance given for its economic rehabilitation; and, in the event of these terms being refused, an intimation has been given to Belgium that the very existence of her monuments, public buildings, institutions, and towns is threatened.

Lord R. Cecil: I have seen a statement to this effect in the Press, but I have not up to the present received any from the Belgian Government.

* * * *

Lord R. Cecil again avoided giving any definite information as to who invited the Allied Forces to Salonika.

* * * *

In reply to Mr. W. Thorne, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Munitions stated that the revised circular (La) dealing with women's wages for work previously done by unskilled men would be issued this week. That, soon after, a further Order will be issued dealing with women doing work customarily done by fully skilled men.

* * * *

Mr. Thorne stated that between 200 and 300 women are being discharged from Park Royal Cartridge Factory, Acton. Mr. Kellaway acknowledged this fact, and added that drop in the supply of material made a reduction of staff necessary. That the women's names would be placed on the Employment Exchange books was all the consolation he could offer for having them unemployed at Christmas!

* * * *

Mr. Booth stated that clauses are being put in leases by landlords compelling tenants to keep up the stock of game. War Economy!

* * * *

Referring to Mr. Ginnell's prediction of a famine in Ireland, Mr. Russell stated that an Order to restrict the exportation of potatoes from Ireland was in the course of issue.

SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' VOTES.

Mr. Pringle: Will any opportunity be given during the present session of discussing the question of votes for soldiers and sailors and the setting up of a special register for that purpose?

Mr. Bonar Law: It is obvious that if the House is to prorogue this week it would be impossible to give facilities for a discussion of this kind.

* * * *

The new Ministries and Secretaries (Salaries and Remuneration) Bill was read. This Bill provides for three new Ministers at £2,000 a year each, and six additional Under-Secretaries. The only Minister of the three likely to be permanent is the Labour Minister, who has been appointed not so much in the interest of the workers, but to ensure "that misunderstandings between employers and workmen should not be liable to interfere with the War." From what Sir G. Cave said, the Food Controller will have absolute power in regulating the supply and consumption of food. Mr. Dillon condemned this on the ground that Lord Devonport knew nothing of agriculture, while Mr. Prothero and Captain Bathurst, his subordinates were authorities on that subject. If Lord Devonport tried any dictatorship on in Ireland, he said, there would be trouble.

Mr. Ramsay Macdonald voiced the fear that by the subdivision of the Ministries it seemed as though the Labour Minister would not have power to control the hours of labour, that was still in the hands of the Home Office. The Bill was read a second time and committed to a Committee of the whole House.

FROM IRELAND

Dear Editor,—Readers of the WOMAN'S DREADNOUGHT will be glad to hear that the organisation of Irish women workers is proceeding apace at Liberty Hall, Dublin. The building had its windows broken during Easter week, and suffered a good deal of damage by reason of the subsequent quartering there of the military, who smashed up all the sewing machines used in the Co-operative Workrooms!

But, thanks to the National Aid Association, new work has begun, and we appeal to friends for orders for our shirts made in the "Connolly" Co-operative Workrooms.

Yours, etc.,

MAUD EDEN.

* * * *

The "Shrewsbury Chronicle" of December 8th reports the death of George Arthur Richards (17), who was found hanging dead in a cell. He had been imprisoned for stealing four dead rabbits, and was to be sent to a Borstal institution.

He had already been in his cell a fortnight! Why was he not sent to the institution at once?

HOLIDAY CARDS AT | W.S.F. SHEFFIELD

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IN THE

IMPERIAL ASSEMBLY ROOMS, PINSTONE ST.,

ON

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To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

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LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22nd.
Bow Women's Hall, 6 p.m., Christmas Sale, Dance.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24th.
Trafalgar Square, 3.30 p.m., Joint Peace Service and Demonstration.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 26th.
Libra Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Price.
Club Row, Bethnal Green, 1 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Price.
Bonner Street, Bethnal Green, 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Price.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27th.
Priscilla Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price,
Obelisk, Bow, 1 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Miss Price.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 1 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Lynch.
Knapp Road, Bromley, 3.30 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Lynch.
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28th.
Ford Road, Bow, 1 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 3 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
Priscilla Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Lynch.
Obelisk, Bow, 1 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Lynch.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29th.
Cardigan Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Boyce.
"Salmon and Ball," 1 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Boyce.
Ford Road, Bow, 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30th.
Malmesbury, Road, Bow, 11 a.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Miss Price.
Chrisp Street, Poplar, 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Boyce.
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Cressall, Mr. Genge.
Cannon Street Road, Whitechapel, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Peace Meeting.

W.S.F. BRANCHES

LONDON.

Barking.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Langford, Ailsa Craig, 97 Essex Road.
Bow.—400 Old Ford Road, E. Secretary: Miss Price. DREADNOUGHT sales, week ending December 16th, 754. Miss O'Brien, 180; Mrs. Holloway, 128; Miss Smyth, 100; Miss Harriet, 56; Miss Price, 38; Mrs. Greer, 36; Miss Smith, 27; Mrs. Farrall, 20; general, 168.
Bromley.—53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs.: Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood.
Canning Town.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parsons, 94 Ravenscroft Road.
Enfield and Edmonton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Beavis, 171 Church Street, Lower Edmonton.
Golder's Green.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Clapson, 44 Erskine Hill, Hampstead Garden Suburb, N.W.
Leyton.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hart, 73 Calderon Road.
Poplar.—20 Railway Street, E. DREADNOUGHT sales, 78.
St. Pancras.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Redgrove, 191 Camden Road, N.W.
Tidal Basin. Hon. Sec., Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin, E.—Re Stop-watch Competition: The watch stopped at 8.16, Mr. Grimes, sen., being the winner; profits (£1 os. 10d.) handed to funds at headquarters. Four shillings was voted from branch funds towards billposting of Christmas number poster. Next meeting, January 3rd, when we hope as many as possible will attend to arrange for future work. Names of fresh customers urgently wanted for DREADNOUGHT, and a seller wanted for Beckton Road on Sunday mornings from 11.30 to 1 p.m.
Willesden.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Shepherd, 141 Villiers Road.

PROVINCES.

Birmingham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss A. F. Boden, 10 Sandhurst Road, Moseley.
Bradford.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. McHale, 12 Airedale College Terrace.
Brynmawr and Nantyglo.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hayward, Coedcae, Garn Fack.
Burnley.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Mrs. Mortimer Holden, The Nurseries, Accrington.
Chester-le-Street.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Faulkner, 14 Hilda Terrace, South Pelaw, Durham.
Chopwell.—Hon. Sec.: V. M. Hardy, Esq., 18 Severn Street, Durham.
Cornsay and Quebec.—Hon. Sec. pro tem.: Miss Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross. Branch meeting, Monday at 197 High Street, Cornsay.
Doncaster.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Kent, 32 St. Sepulchre Gate.
Durham.—Hon. Sec.: Miss C. Ellis, Dundalk House, Neville's Cross.
Ferryhill.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Ruby Stoddart, 12 Hackworth Street, Dean Bank.
Glasgow.—Hon. Sec.: Lachlan Smith, Esq., 126 Bothwell Street. Branch meets Fridays at Charing Cross Halls.
Leeds.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hunter, 7 Sugdenfold, Armley. General Meeting January 9th, Clarion Institute.
Leicester.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hill, 12 Sweetbriar Road.
Medomsley.—Hon. Sec.: Tom Orr, Esq., 6 Derwent Cottages, Durham.
Nottingham.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Hough, 3 Chandos Avenue, Netherfield.
Portsmouth.—Hon. Sec.: Miss L. Whitehead, 6 Northumberland Road, Southsea.
Prudhoe-on-Tyne.—Hon. Sec.: Mrs. Parks, 4 Riding Terrace, Mickley Square.
Sheffield.—Hon. Sec: Mrs. Manoin, 98 Gell Street. Members' meetings are held every Friday evening at Wentworth Café, 7.30 p.m.
Southampton.—Hon. Sec.: Miss Helsby, 77 Tennyson Road.
York: Huddersfield, Rotherham, Wakefield.—Organiser: Miss Stephen, c/o Mrs. Gee, 15 Springwood Terrace, Huddersfield.

"THE MOTHERS' ARMS"

Christmas is upon us once more, and I venture to make a very earnest appeal through these columns on behalf of the babies at the "Mothers' Arms," the public-house at 438 Old Ford Road, Bow, which we have converted into a day nursery, with Montessori class, baby clinic, and milk house.

I write in the hope that in those homes where Christmas fare will not be missing, and especially where there are little children, some receptacle may be set aside, marked "For the Babies at the 'Mothers' Arms,'" so that Christmas thoughts may be easily converted into deeds, and gifts in money, clothing, food and toys may accumulate up to the New Year, with spiritual gain to the givers and untold benefit to our babies.

With cost of living raised 55 per cent. and cost of food 78 per cent. (Board of Trade), which last means 1s. can only purchase 6½d. worth of food, and, with many a woman on Government work earning less than 3d. an hour, or 15s. a week (Report of War Emergency Workers' National Committee), it is obvious that unless help comes from outside the home many little ones must go shorter of the necessaries of life than ever before.

I add a list of a few typical cases on our books:—

Mrs. A.: Husband, discharged soldier; 4s. 6d. pension, suffers from rheumatism, does odd work when he can get it and is able to do it; seven children.

Mrs. W.: Husband ill and unable to work; 14s. a week from Poor Law; rent 3s. 6d.; three children.

Mrs. B.: Husband, furniture packer; earns 25s. a week; five children, two of them very delicate.

Mrs. B.: Husband, hawker; doing badly; is medically unfit; two children.

Mrs. K.: Husband, carman; earns 30s.; rent 5s.; six children; mother ill.

Parcels (registered) should be sent direct to Miss Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E., and I will gladly acknowledge subscriptions and donations at Langham House, Harrow.

BARBARA TCHAYKOVSKY, M.D.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

From Friday, December 22nd, to January 1st the Offices at 400 Old Ford Road will be closed.

The Cost Price Restaurant will close on Friday 22nd, 2 p.m., and re-open Thursday 28th.

"An amazing story."—GLASGOW FORWARD.
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The action taken by the Joint Board, and the "Statement" issued by the Labour Party, which are referred to in the following pages, deserve a reply. Here it is. It is addressed to the entire Labour, Trade Union, and Socialist organisations of Great Britain. Study it well, and discuss it in your Societies, for the future well-being of the Working-Class Movement depends upon your verdict.

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Donations to be sent to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Tchaykovsky, Langham House, Harrow, or Hon. Financial Secretary, Miss N. L. Smyth, 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Miss I. Rae, £1; "In Memory of Florence Canning," per Miss E. Canning, 10s.; Profit on Poplar Club, 10s.; A Friend, 2s. 6d.; W. Lansbury, Esq., 1s. 5d.; Miss Mabel Graham, 1s. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Leigh Rothwell, 5s.; Bow Women's Hall, 5s.; Draw Tickets, 8s. 6d.

DREADNOUGHT FUND.—W. Woods & Son, £2; Miss H. C. Newcomb, £1; Miss Violet Bathgate, £1; Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 10s.; Rev. Lewis Donaldson, 5s.; Miss Balchin, 1s. 6d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss Grieve, £2 2s.; Miss H. Fryer, £2 2s.; Wm. Stuart Low, M.D., £1 1s.; Dr. Synge (Children's Party), £1; Mrs. Butcher (6s. 6d. monthly), 13s.; Nurse Hebbes, 12s.; Mrs. Burroughs, 10s.; Mrs. Rummings, 10s.; Mrs. Mansell-Moullin, 10s.; Miss M. S. Tyler, 10s.; Miss E. Howard, 8s. 6½d.; Miss J. T. Drewry, 6s.; Miss E. M. Morgan (monthly), 5s.; Miss Constance E. Chapman, 5s.; G. Lowe, 5s.; Mrs. Dickinson, 5s.; Miss G. White, 5s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; S. M. Dodington, Esq., 1s. COLLECTIONS: Per Miss Udny, £2 12s. 10d.; L.S.A. Tool Room, £2 0s. 9½d.; Employees Messrs. Ross, Ltd., per Mrs. Young (monthly), 17s. 6d.; L.S.A. Stocking Dept., 16s. 6d.; Harlesden P.S.A., 15s.; Miss Lagsding (Green's Yard), 11s.; Per Nurse Hebbes, 9s. (Dental Clinic); Miss K. Lagsding and Mrs. Bertram (Cubitt Town), 7s. 6d.; Mrs. Brookes, 2s.

EXHIBITION.—E. Williams, Esq., £2 2s.; Mrs. Saxby, 3s. 9d.

CLOTHES, &c.—Miss E. K. Grainger, Anon, Mrs. Buckley, Mrs. Boswell, Miss Solly.

FLOWERS.—Mrs. Sinclair.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

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Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

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20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
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Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

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Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Wednesdays, 2 p.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woolen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

W.S.F. PAMPHLETS
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Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought" now ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E. Postage, 7d. extra.

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Send 1s. for sample Firelighter made of newspaper which anyone can copy by picking to pieces. No more wood necessary to those who have plenty of old newspapers.—Mrs. Lucas, Northgate House, Rottingdean, Sussex.

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W.S.F. Draw Competition on March 24th, 1917, in aid of the W.S.F., "Dreadnought," and Propaganda Fund. Prizes: 1st, Gentleman's Gold Watch; 2nd, an Alarm Clock; 3rd, Lady's or Gentleman's Umbrella; th, Bound Volume of "The Woman's Dreadnought." Entrance, 2d. Draw Secretary; Mrs. Drake, 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin.

Printed by the Blackfriars Press Ltd., 74 Swinton St., London, W.C. and Published by the Workers' Suffrage Federation, at their Offices 400 Old Ford Rd. Bow, E. Printed by T.U. labour in all departments (48 hour week), on Trade Union Made Paper